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AMERICAN
COLONIAL TRACTS
MONTHLY

NUMBER TWELVE

APRIL 1898

A PETITION OF W. C. EXHIBITED TO THE HIGH COURT OF PARLIAMENT NOW ASSEMBLED, FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE GOSPEL IN AMERICA AND THE WEST INDIES, AND FOR THE SETTLING OF OUR PLANTATIONS THERE; WHICH PETITION IS APPROVED BY SEVENTY ABLE ENGLISH DIVINES, ALSO BY MASTER ALEXANDER HENDERSON AND SOME OTHER WORTHY MINISTERS OF SCOTLAND. PRINTED IN THE YEAR 1641.

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COLONIAL TRACTS, issued monthly, is designed to offer in convenient form and at a reasonable price some of the more valuable pamphlets relating to the early history of America which have hitherto been inaccessible to the general public, although of so much importance to the historical student. Single numbers at 25 cents each, or \$3.00 by the year, in advance, may be ordered through any bookseller, from the publisher, George P. Humphrey, 25 Exchange Street, Rochester, N. Y., or Gay & Bird, 22 Bedford Street, Strand, London, W. C., England, agents for England and the Colonies. The number for May will contain "A Description of New England; or, The Observation and Discoveries of Captain John Smith (admiral of that country) in the North of America, in the year of our Lord 1614; with the success of six ships that went the next year, 1615; and the accidents that befell him among the French men of war; with the proof of the present benefit this country affords, whither this present year, 1616, eight voluntary ships are gone to make farther trial. London, 1616."

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AMONG the many interesting numbers for 1898-9, we are able to announce the following:

Captain John Smith's New England's Trials; London, 1622.

Morton's New English Canaan, 1632.

Description of the Province of South Carolina, 1732.

Description of Georgia; London, 1741.

Several tracts on Virginia.

A
PETITION

OF W. C.

W. Castell

EXHIBITED TO THE HIGH COURT OF PARLIAMENT
NOW ASSEMBLED, FOR THE PROPAGATING OF
THE GOSPEL IN AMERICA AND THE WEST
INDIES, AND FOR THE SETTLING OF
OUR PLANTATIONS THERE.

Which Petition is Approved by Seventy
Able English Divines,

ALSO BY

MASTER ALEXANDER HENDERSON, AND SOME
OTHER WORTHY MINISTERS OF
SCOTLAND.

PRINTED IN THE YEAR 1641.

NO 12

APRIL 1898

COLONIAL TRACTS

Published by GEORGE P HUMPHREY

ROCHESTER N Y

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TO THE MOST HIGH AND HONORABLE COURT OF PARLIAMENT, NOW ASSEMBLED, THE HUMBLE PETITION OF WILLIAM CASTELL, PARSON OF COURTENHALL IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE, FOR THE PROPAGATING OF THE GOSPEL IN AMERICA.

IN all humble manner sheweth, unto your approved wisdoms, the great and general neglect of this kingdom, in not propagating the glorious Gospel in America, a main part of the world. Indeed, the undertaking of the work is, in the general, acknowledged pious and charitable ; but the small prosecution that hath hitherto been made of it, either by us or others, having as yet never been generally undertaken in pity to men's souls, but in hope to possess land of those infidels, or of gain by commerce, may well make this and all other Christian kingdoms confess they have been exceeding remiss in performing this so religious, so great, so necessary a work.

May it therefore please your wisdoms to give your petitioner leave to propose briefly, as the nature of a petition requireth, the more than ordinary piety and charity of the work, the evident necessity and benefit of undertaking, together with the easiness of effecting.

A greater expression of piety, your petitioner conceiveth, there cannot be than to make God known where he was never spoken nor thought of, to advance the scepter of Christ's kingdom. And now, again, to reduce those who at first were created after the image of God, from the manifest worship of devils, to acknowledge and adore the blessed Trinity in unity, to do this is to be happy instruments of effecting those often repeated promises of God, in making all nations blessed by the coming of Christ, and by sending his word to all lands ; it is to enlarge greatly the pale of the church, and to make those who were the most detestable synagogues of satan delightful temples of the Holy Ghost.

It was a high point of piety in the Queen of the South to come from the utmost parts of the world to hear the wisdom of Solomon ; and so it was in Abraham, to leave his native country for the better and more free service of his God.

And certainly it will be esteemed no less in those who, either in their persons or purses, shall religiously endeavor to make millions of those silly, seduced Americans to hear, understand, and practice the mystery of godliness.

And as is the piety, such is the charity of the work, exceeding great, to no less than the immortal souls of innumerable men, who still sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, continually assaulted and devoured by the dragon, whose greatest delight is to bring others with himself into the same irrecoverable gulf of perdition. What those blind and spiritually distressed Americans are, we were, and so had continued had not apostolical men afforded greater charity unto us, *divisis orbe Britannis*, by long journeying and not without great hazard of their lives, than as yet hath been shewed by us unto them.

We are not indeed indued with such eminent extraordinary gifts as were the primitive Christians ; but yet if it be duly considered how fully and how purely God hath imparted his gospel unto this island, how miraculously he hath lately protected us from Spanish invasions and popish conspiracies, and how, at this time, we abound in shipping and all manner of provision for sea, it will be found that we, of all nations, are most for the work and most engaged to do it in due thankfulness to God.

Nor is the arm of the Lord shortened or his wonted bounty so restrained, but that undertaking the voyage principally for God's glory, and in compassion to men's souls, we may expect a more than an ordinary blessing from him, whose usual custom is to honor those that honor him, and most abundantly even in this life to recompence such religious undertakings.

The Spaniard boasteth much of what he hath already done in this kind, but their own authors report their unchristian behavior, especially their monstrous cruelties to be such, as they caused the infidels to detest the name of Christ. Your wisdoms may judge of the lion by his claw. In one of their islands called Hispaniola, of 200,000 men, as Benzo—in his Italian history—affirmeth, they had not left 150 souls. And Lipsius

justly complaineth that wheresoever they came they cut down men as they did corn without any compassion. And as for those that survived, they bought their lives at dear rates, for they put them to bear their carriages from place to place; and if they failed by the way, they either miserably dismembered or killed them outright. They lodged them like brute beasts under the planks of their ships, till their flesh rotted from their backs; and if any failed in the full performance of his daily task, he was sure to be whipped till his body distilled with gore blood, and then poured they in either molten pitch or scalding oil to supple them.

A very strange and unlikely way to work infidels unto the faith; neither yet could they, if they would, impart unto others the gospel in the truth and purity thereof, who have it not themselves, but very corruptly, accompanied with many idle, absurd, idolatrous inventions of their own, which are but as so many superstructures, wickedly oppressing if not utterly subverting the very foundations of Christianity.

And although some of the reformed religion, English, Scotch, French, and Dutch, have already taken up their habitations in those parts, yet hath their going thither as yet been to small purpose for the converting of those nations, either for that they have placed themselves but in the skirts of America, where there are but few natives, as those of New England, or else for want of able and conscionable ministers, as in Virginia, they themselves are become exceeding rude, more likely to turn heathen than to turn others to the Christian faith.

Besides, there is a little or no hope our plantations there should be of any long continuance, since here in England, for some years last past, they have been rather diversely hindered than any ways furthered, how and by whom your wisdoms either have or will shortly find out; but this is evident, that the proud, superstitious Spaniard, who hateth their religion and feareth their neighbors, will spare them no longer than, to his overswelling greatness, shall seem good. And in the judgment of most judicious travelers that way, they may, if they will, easily enough suppress and destroy all our other plantations, as they did of late that of Saint Christopher's; when they were no way provoked by us, they will now pretend they are, by a latter taking of Trinidad and the loss of more than

150 of their men there. At least they will be sure to be desperately assaulted, as was the isle of Providence, but the year last past.

Whence, your petitioner offereth unto your honorable considerations a third argument, drawn from mere necessity, that as you tender the happy proceeding of those as yet but weakly settled plantations, the liberties, livelihood, and lives of many thousands of our dear-brethren and countrymen, and which is yet more, the prosperous progress of the gospel, you would be pleased to consult of such an able and speedy supply as may secure them against the now expected cruelty of the Spaniard.

To which needful supply the better and sooner to induce your wisdoms, your petitioner desireth your yet a little further patience, until he hath shewed some temporal benefits that are thereby like to accrue unto this kingdom, together with the easiness of effecting.

When a kingdom beginneth to be overburdened with a multitude of people, as England and Scotland now do, to have a convenient place where to send forth colonies is no small benefit. And such are the northeast and northwest parts of America, between the degrees of 25 and 45 of the north latitude, which at this time do even offer themselves unto us, to be protected by us against the known cruelty of the over-near approaching Spaniard.

A very large tract of ground containing spacious, healthful, pleasant, and fruitful countries, not only apt but already provided of all things necessary for man's sustentation, corn, grass, and wholesome cattle in good competency; but fish, fowl, fruits, and herbs in abundant variety.

If we should look no further than the south of Virginia, which is our own, we shall find there all manner of provision for life besides merchantable commodities, silk, vines, cotton, tobacco, deer-skins, goat-skins, rich fur, and beavers good store, timber, brass, iron, pitch, tar, rosin, and almost all things necessary for shipping, which if they shall be employed that way, they who are sent away may, with God's blessing, within short time, in due recompence of their setting forth, return this kingdom store of silver and gold, pearls, and precious stones; for undoubtedly, if there be not a general mistake in all authors who have written of these places, such treasure is

to be had, if not there, yet in places not far remote, where as yet the Spaniard hath nothing to do. And in case the Spaniard will be troublesome to our plantations, or shall, as it is generally conceived, be found an enemy to this kingdom, there is no way more likely to secure England than by having a strong navy there ; hereby we may come to share, if not utterly to defeat him of that vast Indian treasure wherewith he setteth on fire so great a part of the Christian world, corrupteth many counselors of state, supporteth the papacy, and generally perplexeth all reformed churches.

Nor need any scrupulous query be made, whether we may not assault an enemy in any place, or not esteem them such as shall assault us in those places, where we have as much to do as they. The Spaniard claimeth indeed an interest little less than hereditary in almost all America and the West Indies, but it is but by virtue of the Pope's grant, which is nothing worth, as was long since determined by Queen Elizabeth and her counsel ; so as for the Spaniard to debar us in the liberty of our plantations, or freedom of commerce in those spacious countries, were over-proudly to take upon him, and for us to permit it were overmuch to yield of our own right.

Especially when we may, as now we may, so easily help ourselves ; for your petitioner conceiveth there is no great difficulty in the preparation here, or tediousness in the passage thither, or hazard when we come there. The preparation of men and shipping, in respect of the daily, happy, expected accord between us and the Scots, is, upon the matter, already made ; and as for money, it is in the power of this honorable house to give sufficient, without any grievance or dislike of the commonwealth, who undoubtedly in the general will think nothing grievous which shall be concluded by your wisdoms, expedient to such a pious and charitable work.

And as for the passage, how can it be thought either tedious or dangerous, it being ordinarily but six weeks' sail, in a sea much more secure from pirates and much more free from shipwreck and enemies' coasts, than our ten or twelve months' voyage into the East Indies. And as for our good success there, we need not fear it, the natives being now everywhere more than ever, out of an inveterate hatred to the Spaniard, ready and glad to entertain us ; our best friends, the Netherlanders,

being with eight and twenty ships gone before to assist and further us. And, which is much more, our going with a general consent in God's cause, for the promoting of the gospel and enlarging of His church, may assure us of a more than ordinary protection and direction. That hitherto we have been less successful in our voyage that way, we may justly impute it to this, that as yet they have not been undertaken with such a general consent and with such a full reference to God's glory as was requisite.

And so, your petitioner, having delivered his apprehension herein more briefly than so weighty a matter might well require, he submits all the premises to your more full deliberation and conclusion, which, he humbly prayeth, may be with all convenient speed the only best way under God to make it the better successful.

WE whose names are here underwritten, having been upon occasion acquainted with a motion intended to be made by Master William Castell, parson of Courtenhall in the county of Northampton, to the high and honorable court of Parliament, now assembled, concerning the propagation of the glorious gospel of Christ in America. As we do well approve of the motion, so we do humbly desire his reasons may be duly considered ; and so good a work furthered their wiser judgments may resolve upon, to which we humbly submit the same.

John Mosely,	D. D.	Ministers of LONDON :
Ra. Brownricke,	D. D.	
Thomas Bambrig,	D. D.	George Walker,
Robert Sanderson,	D. D.	James Palmer,
Richard Alleyne,	D. D.	Edward Marbury,
Daniel Featly,	D. D.	Joseph Caryll,
Mathias Styles,	D. D.	Edmond Calamy,
Edmond Stanton,	D. D.	Adoniram Byfield,
Stephen Denison,	D. D.	William Price,
Edw. Williamot,	D. D.	Richard Maden,
Jonathan Brown,	D. D.	James Batty,
Jasper Fisher,	D. D.	Math. Griffeth,
Hannibal Potter,	D. D.	Ephraim Paget,
Anthony Clapton,	D. D.	Robert Pory,
Thomas Drayton,	D. D.	William Janeway,
John Grant,	D. D.	Nathaniel Barry.

Ministers of several other counties :

John White,	Dorsetshire,
William Ford, }	Somersetshire,
John Payns, }	
Zachery Caudry,	Lestershire,
Henry Paynter,	Devonshire,
Stephen Marshall, }	Essex,
Samuel Joyner, }	
John Ward,	Suffolk,
Jer. Burroughes,	Northfolk,
John Rawlinson,	Darby,
Moses Capell, }	Kent,
William Rhet, }	
Francis Charliot,	Buck,
Richard Gifford, }	Herford.
William Englesby, }	

Other worthy ministers of the diocese of Peterborough, where the petitioner liveth :

Daniel Caudery,	William Spencer,
Jeremy Whittaker,	Edmond James,
John Barry,	John Baynard,
James Cranford,	George Jay,
Samuel Craddock,	Francis Presse,
David Ensme,	John Guderick,
Edmond Castell,	Miles Berker,
Samuel Moyle,	Francis Atturbury,
Daniel Rogers,	Jeremy Stephens,
Benjamin Tomkins,	John Ward,
Richard Cooke,	Peter Fawtract,
Richard Trueman,	William Malkinson.
John Guderick,	

The motion made by Master William Castell, minister of the gospel, for propagating of the blessed evangel of Christ, our Lord and Saviour, in America, we conceive in the general to be most pious, Christian, and charitable, and therefore worthy to be seriously considered of all that love the glorious name of Christ and are zealous of the salvation of souls, which are without Christ and without God in the world, wishing the opportunity and fit season, the instruments and means, and all things necessary for the prosecution of so pious a work, to be considered by the wisdoms of churches and civil powers, whom God hath called and enabled with piety, prudence, and peace, for matters of public concernment, and of so great importance ; and beseeching the Lord to bless all their consultations and proceedings for the advancing and establishing the kingdom of Jesus Christ.

Alexander Henderson,
Robert Blare,
R. Baillie,
M. Gillaspie,
N. Smyth,
M. Borthrick.

FINIS.

A GUIDE IN THE WILDERNESS ; or, the History of the First Settlement in the Western Counties of New York, with Useful Instructions to Future Settlers. In a series of letters addressed by JUDGE COOPER of COOPERS-TOWN to William Sampson, Barrister, of New York. Dublin : Printed by Gilbert & Hodges, 37 Dame Street ; 1810.

Three hundred copies only of this very rare book have been printed, 1897, with an Introduction especially written for this new edition by James Fenimore Cooper of Albany, a great-grandson of Judge Cooper. Sent postpaid on receipt of the price, \$1.25, by the publisher, George P. Humphrey, Rochester, N. Y.

HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN TROOPS DURING THE LATE WAR, under the command of COLONELS FENTON and CAMPBELL, giving an account of the crossing of the lake from Erie to Long Point ; also the crossing of Niagara by the troops under Generals Gaines, Brown, Scott, and Porter. The taking of Fort Erie, the Battle of Chippewa, the imprisonment of Colonel Bull, Major Galloway, and the author (then a captain), and their treatment ; together with an historical account of the Canadas. By SAMUEL WHITE. Baltimore, 1830. 12mo, boards, uncut. \$1.00

Three hundred copies only, 1896.

Just Published :

THE LIFE OF CHARLES CARROLL OF CARROLLTON. 1737-1832. With his Correspondence and Public Papers. By Kate Mason Rowland, author of "The Life of George Mason," etc. Fully illustrated. Two volumes, 8vo. New York, 1898. Per set, \$6.00 *net*.

The biography of Charles Carroll of Carrollton, the last of the Signers, has never before been fully written. It is believed that the publication of his letters and papers, with a detailed account of his public services, will be acceptable to all students of American history, and will enhance and substantiate the already high reputation of this pure and noble-minded statesman, the peer in character and intellect of any of the great Revolutionary leaders. Charles Carroll's life may be roughly divided into three periods ; thirty years, mostly spent abroad, in preparation for the patriotic duties which awaited him ; thirty years in the service of his state and country ; thirty years in scholarly retirement, where, as a close and interested observer of public events, he remained in touch with the outside world even to the last months of his earthly career.



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May.

A Brief Account of the Establishment of the Colony of Georgia, under General James Oglethorpe, February 1, 1733. No. 2,
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A State of the Province of Georgia, Attested upon Oath, in the Court of Savannah, November 10, 1740. London: Printed for W. Meadows, at the Angel in Cornhill, MDCCXLII. No. 3,
July.

A True and Historical Narrative of the Colony of Georgia, in America, from the first settlement thereof until this period; containing the most authentic facts, matters, and transactions therein; together with his Majesty's charter, representations of the people, letters, etc.; and a Dedication to his Excellency General Oglethorpe.—By Pat. Tailfer, M. D., Hugh Anderson, M. D., Da. Douglas, and others, Landholders in Georgia, at present in Charles-town, in South Carolina. Charles-town, South Carolina: Printed by P. Timothy, for the Authors, 1741. No. 4,
August.

AN Account Showing the Progress of the Colony of Georgia, in America, from its First Establishment. Published per Order of the Honorable the Trustees. London: Printed in the year MDCCXLI. Maryland: Reprinted and sold by Jonas Green, at his Printing Office, in Annapolis, 1742. No. 5,
September.

NOVA Britannia: Offering most excellent fruits by planting in Virginia; exciting all such as be well affected to further the same. London: Printed for Samuel Macham, and are to be sold at his shop in Paul's Church-yard, at the sign of the Bul-head, 1609. No. 6,
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THE New Life of Virginia : Declaring the former success and present estate of that plantation, being the second part of Nova Britannia. Published by authority of his Majesty's Council of Virginia. London : Imprinted by Felix Kyngston, for William Welby, dwelling at the sign of the Swan, in Paul's Church-yard, 1612.

No. 8,
December.

THE Beginning, Progress, and Conclusion of Bacon's Rebellion in Virginia, in the years 1675 and 1676.

No. 9,
January.

AN Account of our Late Troubles in Virginia, written in 1676, by Mrs. An. Cotton of Q. Creek. Published from the original manuscript, in the Richmond (Va.) Enquirer, of 12 September, 1804.

A List of Those that have been Executed for the Late Rebellion in Virginia, by Sir William Berkeley, Governor of the Colony. Copied from the original manuscript (Harleian collection, codex 6845, page 54), in the library of the British Museum, London, by Robert Greenhow, Esq., of Virginia.

No. 10,
February.

A Narrative of the Indian and Civil Wars in Virginia, in the years 1675 and 1676. Published from the original manuscript, in the first volume (second series) of the Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society. Boston : Printed by John Eliot, No. 5 Court street, 1814.

No. 11,
March.

NEW England's Plantation : or, a short and true description of the commodities and discommodities of that country. Written by a reverend Divine now there resident. London : Printed by T. C. and R. C. for Michael Sparke, dwelling at the sign of the Blue Bible in Greene Arbor in the little Old Bailey, 1630.

No. 12,
April.

A Petition of W. C. Exhibited to the High Court of Parliament, now assembled, for the Propagating of the Gospel in America and the West Indies, and for the settling of our Plantations there ; which Petition is approved by seventy able English Divines, also by Master Alexander Henderson and some other worthy Ministers of Scotland. Printed in the year 1641.

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